Drinking water in the villages of Tamil Nadu

2504. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no arrangement for storing pure drinking water in various villages of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether drainage facility is also not available in these villages; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) All villages of Tamil Nadu have been covered fully or partially with drinking water facilities.

(b) About 16.65 percentage of rural population (1981 census) has been covered with rural sanitation facilities.

(c) The partially covered villages/habitations in Tamil Nadu will be taken up for full coverage during the Eighth Five Year Plan period for supply of drinking water under the normal plan programmes of State sector Minimum Needs Programme and Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. Construction of rural sanitation latrines will also be taken up under MNP and centrally Sponsored rural Sanitation Programme with the available funds approved on year to year basis.

[Translation]

Science and Technology as the basis for Development Schemes

2506. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMMEIMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to make the science and technology as the basis for the effective implementation of various developmental schemes which are proposed to be launched in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all the State Governments have been asked to set up independent departments of Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Directional paper for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) states that science and technology efforts would have to be deployed widely to cover all the basic areas of development.

(b) The strategy for S&T development for the Eighth Five Year plan would be as follows:

(i) Laying greater emphasis on scientific and technological content of all programmes in the socio-economic sectors;

(ii) Giving priority to implementation of programmes having most direct impact on Society;

(iii) Identifying and implementing national technology missions and S&T projects in a mission mode in selected areas;

(iv) Aiming at improving the quality of S&T education and training at all levels;

(v) Providing for a significant trust in selected areas of advanced research to reach international levels;